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9 MAR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversations with Dick Helms, 12 February 1977

1. The Agency is loyal and disciplined.
 - a. They need some loyalty down after you explain to them what you want from them.
2. Be careful about competing too much for the President's time. McCone did this and got cut up in White House politics.
3. The Board of National Estimates.
 - a. Beetle Smith first set this up with Shermann Kent as the head (see Kent possibly). (Another man possibly to talk to was the former head of the Board, John Huizenga.)
4. The Board deteriorated into a set pattern of a retired Admiral, a retired Air Force General, a retired FSO, an economist, a petroleum corporation representative, and some CIA generalists.
5. Covert operations--Vance has made some public remarks about these--(check quotations).
 - a. If they become too restrictive, you simply cannot run them.
6. Counterespionage.
 - a. We're very vulnerable here. The FBI is flat on its back and the CIA is not good at it.
 - b. There's some attitude around town that if we don't know about it, it simply doesn't exist.
 - c. You must emphasize greater collaboration with the FBI.

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7. Relations with DOD--it's like the elephant and the jack rabbit.

a. NRO is run by DEPSECDEF and the DCI.



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9. Drug testing:

a. Came out of an unusual speech Keenan made immediately on leaving the Soviet Union. He believed he had been drugged. The experimenters knew they were going to take this but had agreed that the time of their taking would not be known in advance.

10. Try to deflect the witch hunting for the past and the considerations for the future.

11. In the House, Nedzi is supportive and Mahon should be courted.

a. Congressional breakfasts are a good idea.

12. Helms' phone



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